

REMARKS

Claims 50-69 now stand in the application, claims 29-49 having been canceled and new claims 51-69 added. Reconsideration of the application and allowance of all claims are respectfully requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 29-41, 43-45 and 48 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Sim (USP 5,154,322). Claims 49 and 50 were not stated in the rejection, but were discussed in the supporting arguments and it is assumed they have been rejected on the same basis. Claims 42 and 46 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable, claim 46 being rejected as being unpatentable over Sim, and claim 42 being rejected as being unpatentable over Sim in view of Oglesby et al (USP 5,799,648).

In order to clearly distinguish the invention from the prior art, and in particular from the disclosure of Sim, claim 50 has been extensively revised in order to make it clear that the exhaust gas passageway is located adjacent the dispensing nozzle and furthermore, that the heat exchange fins are in direct heat conducting contact with the dispensing nozzle and extend directly from the dispensing nozzle into the exhaust gas passageway. It is respectfully submitted that amended claim 50 clearly distinguishes the invention from the prior art.

Claim 50 is now directed towards a glue gun which is to comprise the following features:

a main housing defining a combustion chamber within which fuel gas is converted to heat for heating the main housing,

an exhaust gas port from the combustion chamber for exhausting burnt gases therefrom,

a working body member of heat conductive material in heat conducting engagement with the main housing for receiving heat therefrom, the working body member defining an elongated heating chamber for receiving and melting hot melt glue therein,

a dispensing nozzle extending from the working body member communicating with the heating chamber for dispensing melted glue therefrom,

an exhaust gas passageway located adjacent the dispensing nozzle and extending from the exhaust gas port to an exhaust gas outlet for accommodating exhaust gases from the exhaust gas port to the exhaust gas outlet for transferring heat from the exhaust gases to the dispensing nozzle, and

a plurality of spaced apart heat exchange fins in direct heat conducting contact with the dispensing nozzle, and extending directly from the dispensing nozzle into the exhaust gas passageway to form the exhaust gas passageway into a circuitous exhaust gas passageway through which the exhaust gases pass between the exhaust gas port and the exhaust gas outlet for transferring heat from the exhaust gases to the dispensing nozzle.

It is respectfully submitted that none of the prior art documents disclose a glue gun which comprises the novel and inventive combination of features (a) to (f). In particular, none of the prior art documents disclose a glue gun which includes features (e) and (f). None of the prior art documents, including Sim, discloses a glue gun which comprises a working body member and a dispensing nozzle extending from the working body member whereby an exhaust gas passageway is located adjacent the dispensing nozzle and extends from an exhaust gas port of a combustion chamber to an exhaust gas outlet for accommodating exhaust gases from the exhaust gas port to the exhaust gas outlet for transferring heat from the exhaust gases to the dispensing

nozzle. Furthermore, none of the prior art documents, including Sim, disclose a plurality of spaced apart heat exchanging fins in direct heat conducting contact with a dispensing nozzle and extending directly from the dispensing nozzle into the exhaust gas passageway to form the exhaust gas passageway into a circuitous exhaust gas passageway through which the exhaust gases pass between the exhaust gas port and the exhaust gas outlet for transferring heat from the exhaust gases to the dispensing nozzle.

Furthermore, it is respectfully submitted that not only does Sim and the other prior art fail to disclose a glue gun which comprises features (e) and (f), but there is no suggestion of a glue gun which comprises such features in Sim or in any of the other prior art documents, taken alone or in combination.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the invention of amended claim 50 is novel and not obvious.

Sim discloses a hot melt glue gun which comprises a glue head 63 within which an elongated heating chamber is formed for receiving and melting hot melt glue. The heating chamber in the head 63 of Sim is referred to as a glue feed passageway 71. A dispensing nozzle 77 extends from the head 63 and communicates with the heating chamber 71 for dispensing glue from the heating chamber. A combustion chamber 66 is “buried deep inside a body of a monoblock casting 67”. The combustion chamber 66 is provided in the form of a labyrinth with walls 68 and a baffle 69. The applicant notes from the official letter the interpretation that the Examiner has placed on the disclosure of Sim, however, the applicant does not agree with the Examiner’s interpretation. The applicant does not accept that the wall 68 is a heat exchange fin in the sense as claimed in Claims 48 or 50 of the claims which were filed with the last response.

Sim in referring to the combustion chamber 66 uses the term “walls 68”. The term “wall” is used in the plural. Clearly, Sim, in referring to the walls 68, is referring to four walls which make up the combustion chamber, namely, the top wall 68 which is identified by the reference numeral 68, the bottom wall of the combustion chamber which is not identified by a reference numeral, but which is spaced apart below the top wall 68, and presumably two side walls. It is unclear from the disclosure of Sim precisely what constitutes the side walls. With such an interpretation, the exhaust port from the combustion chamber of Sim must be formed by a gap between the top wall 68 and a vertical wall extending upwardly from the upstream end of the combustion chamber to the head 63. In other words, the exhaust port of Sim is located adjacent the end of the leader line from the reference numeral 68. Thus, the only exhaust gas passageway from this exhaust gas port of Sim to an exhaust gas outlet is the passageway which commences at the exhaust gas port, which is located at the end of the leader line 68, and extends to the outlet which is identified by the reference numeral 73. A baffle 69 divides this exhaust gas passageway into two parallel passageways, which under no circumstances could be considered to be a circuitous passageway. It is respectfully submitted that a wall, namely, the top wall 68 which forms the combustion chamber 66 could under no circumstances be considered to be a heat exchange fin in the normal engineering meaning of the term. Further, it is respectfully submitted that the only item of Sim which could be considered to be a heat exchange fin in the normal engineering meaning of the term is the baffle 69. Since the baffle 69 merely divides the passageway which extends from the exhaust gas port at the end of the leader line 68 to the outlet 73 into two parallel passageways, it is respectfully submitted that under no circumstances could

the passageway between the exhaust gas port from the combustion chamber of Sim to the exhaust gas outlet 73 be considered to be a circuitous passageway.

However, in order to ensure that the invention is clearly distinguished over Sim, revised Claim 50 now clearly claims firstly that the exhaust gas passageway is located adjacent the dispensing nozzle, and secondly, that the heat exchange fins are in direct heat conducting contact with the dispensing nozzle and extend directly from the dispensing nozzle into the exhaust gas passageway. It is respectfully submitted that this clearly distinguishes the invention from the disclosure of Sim. The dispensing nozzle 77 of Sim extends axially away from the downstream end of the head 63. The exhaust gas passageway of Sim is located adjacent the head 63 and is clearly spaced apart from the nozzle 77, and exhaust gases passing through the exhaust gas passageway of Sim would have no effect on the dispensing nozzle 77. Furthermore, even allowing the Examiner's interpretation of Sim, which as discussed above, the applicant does not accept, the baffle 69 as conceded by the Examiner is located adjacent the head 63, as is the wall 68 of the combustion chamber 66. Accordingly, both the baffle 69 and the wall 68 are clearly located spaced apart from the dispensing nozzle 77.

Therefore, firstly, the baffle 69 and the wall 68 of Sim do not, nor could they be considered to be extending from the dispensing nozzle, and certainly, under no circumstances could they be considered to be extending directly from the dispensing nozzle 77 of Sim. Secondly, not only do the baffle 69 and wall 68 of Sim not extend either directly or otherwise from the dispensing nozzle 77 of Sim, but they are clearly not in direct heat conducting contact with the dispensing nozzle.

Furthermore, there is no disclosure, nor is there any suggestion in Sim of the baffle 69 and the wall 68 extending directly or otherwise from the dispensing nozzle 77, and there is certainly no suggestion in the disclosure of Sim of the baffle 69 and the wall 68 being in direct heat conducting contact with the dispensing nozzle.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the invention of the revised Claim 50 is novel and not obvious over the disclosure of Sim.

Furthermore, it is respectfully submitted that none of the other prior art documents disclose or suggest a glue gun in which an exhaust gas passageway is located adjacent a dispensing nozzle of such a glue gun, and furthermore, there is neither a disclosure, nor is there a suggestion of the provision of heat exchange fins being in direct heat conducting contact with the dispensing nozzle or extending directly therefrom into such an exhaust gas passageway.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that whether Sim is considered separately or combined with the other prior art documents, the invention of claim 50, as well as all claims dependent therefrom, patentably distinguishes over the prior art.

The amendments to claim 50 regarding the heat exchange fins are supported in the specification at page 11 from line 4 to line 21, and at page 5, lines 10 to 17 and at page 6, lines 6 to 28, as well as in the drawings, and particularly Figs. 2 to 6 thereof. New claims 51 and 52 also find support in the specification at page 11, lines 4 to 21 and in the drawings, and in particular in Figs. 2 to 6 thereof.

New claims 53 and 54 are based on claims 29 and 30, respectively, which were filed with the last response, but revised so that the two claims are now directed towards a glue gun. Claims 55 and 56 are based on claims 32 and 33, respectively, which were filed with the last response,

but likewise revised to be directed towards a glue gun. Claim 57 is based on claim 31 of the revised claims filed with the last response, but revised to be directed towards a glue gun. Claims 58 to 60 are based on claims 34 to 36, respectively, of the claims filed with the last response, but revised to be directed towards a glue gun. Claims 61 to 69 are based on claims 38 to 46, respectively, of the claims filed with the last response, but revised to be directed towards a glue gun.

Claims 29 to 36 and claims 38 to 46 which were filed with the last response are supported in the description, and also in the statements of invention which appear in the specification from page 1, line 30 to page 5, line 2.

In view of the above comments, it is respectfully submitted that revised claim 50 and new claims 51 to 69 should now be allowable, and allowance is respectfully requested.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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